

DUXBURY CLIFFER

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HISTORY OF GURNET

THE GURNET by Herbert R.
Boardman.

The next day they spent on Clark's Island where they offered up prayer and praise to God- the first religious service held by Christians on the soil of New England. A large rock or boulder -Pulpit Rock- on this island marks the spot bearing the inscription "On the Sabbath Day Wee Rested" from Governor Bradford's Journal. On the following day, they started in the repaired shallop to explore the main land and finally landed on Plymouth Rock and decided to settle there. This was the official historic landing of the Pilgrims - December 21, 1620- but it must be remembered only a small group of explorers made this momentous landing as the rest were awaiting their return on board the anchored "Mayflower" at Provincetown.

The explorers hastened back to the ship after deciding to locate in Plymouth, and on December 26, 1620, the gallant ship "Mayflower" majestically sailed forth into Plymouth Harbor past the end of the Gurnet. What a sight for this deserted headland to witness and how imposing the headland must have looked to the weary Pilgrims, nearing the end of the hard voyage! Whether or not there was an Indian lurking in the Gurnet pines is not known. She slid quietly into the harbor close by the shores of Brown's Bank then a substantial island, (though now it is a treacherous sandbar visible only at low water,) rounded Beach Point, and finally anchored about opposite the site of the famous rock.

The Pilgrim heroes immediately began further exploration of the lonely shores and forest wilderness during the ensuing week and on their Christmas Day which would be January 4, 1621 according to our calendar, they began to build the town of Plymouth by erecting the first or common house at the foot of the hill (present Leyden St.) The laying out and building proceeded apace and the Pilgrims were moved ashore as fast as houses were available until the entire company had been landed late in March.

On April 15, 1621 came the sad day when the good ship "Mayflower" weighed anchor and started on the return journey to England leaving the depleted band of Pilgrims in their little town on the wild and desolate shores of the new world.

(To be Continued)